

What is claimed is:

1. A cleaning apparatus comprising:
a cleaning element;
support means for carrying the cleaning element; and
a handle coupled to the cleaning element support.

2. The cleaning apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:
the handle rotatably coupled to the support; and
powered drive means, carried in the handle, and having a rotatable
output shaft, the output shaft coupled to the support for rotating the support upon
activation of the powered drive means.

3. The apparatus of claims 2 further comprising:
means for coupling the output shaft to the support.

4. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the coupling means comprises
an engagable and dis-engagable clutch.

5. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the power drive means
comprises:
a motor mounted in the handle; and
an electrical power source mounted in the handle and coupled to the
motor.

6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein:
the motor is a variable speed motor.

7. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein:
the motor bidirectionally rotates the output shaft.

8. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the cleaning element comprises:
a mat having a exterior surface formed with cleaning members fixed to the core.

9. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the cleaning member comprises:
a plurality of bristles extending from the mat.

10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein:
the bristles are evenly spaced over the mat.

11. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein:
the bristles have one of the same height and different heights.

12. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein:
the bristles have one of the same degree of resiliency and different resiliency.

13. The apparatus of claim 9 further comprising:
a sheet disposed over the bristles.

14. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein:
the sheet is dry and absorbent.

15. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein:
the sheet is pre-moistened.

16. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein:
the sheet is dry and treated with a water activated material.

17. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein:
the sheet carries a cleaning medium.

18. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein:
the sheet carries a deodorizing medium.

19. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein:
the sheet carries a sanitizing medium.

20. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein:
the sheet carries a medicament.

21. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein:
the sheet carries a conditioning medium.

22. The apparatus of claim 9 further comprising:
means, removably mountable over the mat and between the bristles, to
remove loose articles collected by the bristles when the means is removed from the
mat.

23. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the means comprises:
a sheet having apertures mountable over the bristles on the mat.

24. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the means comprises:
a cage mountable over the mat and the bristles, the cage having spaced
legs disposed between adjacent groups of bristles.

25. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the means comprises:
a mesh net having intersecting threads mountable over the mat, the
threads disposable between adjacent bristles.

26. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein:
the mesh net is hingedly formed with the mat.

27. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the cleaning element
comprises:
a directional fabric.

28. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the cleaning element
comprises:
a non-woven fabric sheet.

29. The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the cleaning element further
comprises:
a plurality of bristles extending from a mat mountable over the support.

30. The apparatus of claim 29 wherein:
the bristles extend through the fabric sheet.

31. The apparatus of claim 29 wherein:
the sheet conforms to the shape of the bristles on the mat.

32. The apparatus of claim 28 wherein:
the sheet is provided in a plurality of separable sheets wound in a roll.

33. The apparatus of claim 32 wherein:
the cloth is dry and absorbent.

34. The apparatus of claim 31 wherein:
the cloth is dry and fluid activated.

35. The apparatus of claim 32 wherein the cloth is pre-moistened with a medium

36. The apparatus of claim 29 further comprising: clamp means, carried on one of the support and a core on which the mat is mounted, for clamping the end of the fabric cloth in a fixed position on the mat.

37. The apparatus of claim 36 wherein the clamp means comprises: a pivotal member carried on one of the support and the core, the clamp means pivotal between a first position spaced from the cloth to a second position engaged with the cloth.

38. The apparatus of claim 36 wherein the clamp means comprises: opposed ends of the mat spaced from each other when mounted about the support; and

means, carried on the opposed ends of the mat and in the one of the support and a core on which the mat is mounted, for latchingly receiving the ends of the mat to secure the mat on one of the support and the core.

39. The apparatus of claim 36 wherein the clamp means comprises: opposed ends of the mat spaced from each other when the mat is mounted around one of the support and a core;

means, carried on the opposed ends of the mat, for releasably mounting in a slot in one of the support and a core; and

a clamp member releasably mounted in the slot for fixing the ends of the mat in the slot.

40. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the cleaning element comprises:

a plurality of sequentially arranged projections defining alternating peaks and valleys;

the cleaning element formed of a resilient material such that adjacent peaks resiliently move relative to each other when the cleaning element is urged across a surface to trap debris on the surface between closely disposed peaks.

41. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the cleaning element further comprises:

a core, the core mountable over the support; and
the mat mounted over the core.

42. The apparatus of claim 41 further comprising:
clamp means, carried on the core, for clamping the mat to the core.

43. The apparatus of claim 42 wherein:
the clamp means is a clamp member pivotally mounted on the core.

44. The apparatus of claim 42 wherein:
the clamp means comprises a separate clamp member removably mounted on the core to fix the mat on the core.

45. The apparatus of claim 41 wherein the mat comprises:
a sheet having opposed ends; and
means, carried on the core and the ends of the mat for releasably locking the ends of the mat to the core.

46. The apparatus of claim 45 wherein the locking means comprises:
snap engagable mating surfaces formed on the ends of the mat to snap connect the ends of the mat in a continuous loop about the core.

47. The apparatus of claim 45 wherein the means comprises: fasteners carried on the mat for snap engagement with mating apertures carried on the mat.

48. The apparatus of claim 8 further comprising: claim means, mountable over the mat, to fix the mat on the support.

49. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising: vacuum generating means, carried in the handle, and coupled to the drive means, for generating an inward air flow through the conduit coupled to the handle, the conduit disposed in fluid communication with the vacuum generating means and a debris collection chamber coupled to the handle.

50. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising: the cleaning element including a sheet disposed about the support.

51. The apparatus of claim 50 wherein: the sheet extends over at least one surface portion of the support.

52. The apparatus of claim 50 wherein: the cleaning element extends over substantially the entire exterior surface of the support.

53. The apparatus of claim 50 further comprising: clamp means for clamping a free end of the sheet in a fixed position relative to the support.

54. The apparatus of claim 53 further wherein the clamp means comprises: the clamp member releasably mountable on the support.

55. The apparatus of claim 53 wherein the clamp means comprises: a pivotal member, carried on the support, and movable to a stationary position relative to the sheet for fixing the sheet on the support.

56. The apparatus of claim 50 further comprising: a protective cap mountable over the sheet to the support to sealingly encompass the fabric sheet.

57. The apparatus of claim 56 wherein the protective cap comprises: an open ended enclosure friction mountable to the support to sealingly mount the protective cap to the support about the sheet.

58. The apparatus of claim 56 wherein the protective cap comprises: first and second hingedly coupled sections sealingly mountable about the sheet on the support.

59. A cleaning apparatus comprising:
a brush including a handle;
bristles carried on the brush; and
a sheet disposed about the bristles

60. The apparatus of claim 59 wherein:
the sheet extends over at least one surface portion of the brush.

61. The cleaning apparatus of claim 59 wherein:
the sheet is wound a plurality of times around the bristles.

62. The cleaning apparatus of claim 59 wherein:
at least some of the bristles extend through the sheet.

63. The apparatus of claim 59 further comprising:
a sheet fixed over the bristles.

64. The apparatus of claim 59 wherein:
the sheet means is dry.

65. The apparatus of claim 59 wherein:
the sheet is pre-moistened.

66. The apparatus of claim 59 wherein:
the sheet is pre-moistened with a cleaning medium.

67. The apparatus of claim 59 wherein:
the sheet is pre-moistened with a deodorizing medium.

68. The apparatus of claim 59 wherein:
the sheet is pre-moistened with a sanitizing medium.

69. The apparatus of claim 59 wherein:
the sheet is pre-moistened with a medicament.

70. The apparatus of claim 59 further comprising:
means, removably mountable over the mat and between the bristles to
remove loose articles collected by the bristles when the means is removed from the
mat.

71. A cleaning apparatus comprising:
a support including a handle;
a cleaning element mounted on the support; and
an openable enclosure configured for sealingly receiving and
surrounding at least a cleaning element of the cleaning apparatus.

72. The cleaning apparatus of claim 70 further comprising:
the enclosure configured for receiving the entire cleaning apparatus; and
a sealable aperture formed in the enclosure for permitting the
disposition of a fluid into the enclosure for absorption by the cleaning element.

73. The cleaning apparatus of claim 1 wherein:
the handle is releasably engagable with the support.

74. The cleaning apparatus of claim 1 wherein:
the handle is unitarily formed with the support.